

**Nebraska Children’s Commission
Foster Care Reimbursement Rate Committee**

May 6, 2019

1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Southeast Community College, Rooms U-104 & 106
8800 O Street, Lincoln, NE 68520

Video Conference Satellite Location:

Santee Tribal Building, Tribal Chambers
425 Frazier Ave. N. Niobrara, NE 68760

1. Call to Order

The Foster Care Reimbursement Rate Committee (FCRRC) Co-Chairs, Peg Harriott and Bill Williams, called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Committee Members present (13):

Phillip Burrell	Jessica Kroeker	Lana Temple-Plotz
Robin Chadwell	Jackie Meyer (1:17)	Chrissy Tonkinson* (1:05)
Misty Frazier** (1:14)	Felicia Nelsen (1:17)	Bill Williams
Peg Harriott	Cindy Rudolph	
Susan Henrie (1:06)	Joan Schwan	

Committee Members absent (1):

Bobby Loud

Ex Officio Members present (4):

Olivia Biggs	Kari Rumbaugh
Rochelle Dotson	Kathleen Stolz

Ex Officio Members absent (2):

Jennifer Potterf	Mike Puls
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A quorum was established.

*Let it be noted for the record that Chrissy Tonkinson was appointed by Julia Tse as her temporary proxy

**Indicates members attending via video conferencing

Guests in Attendance (5):

Amanda Felton.....	Nebraska Children’s Commission
Chris Jones.....	Nebraska Children’s Commission
Darcy Kramer.....	Boys Town
Chrissy Tonkinson.....	Voices for Children in Nebraska
Lana Verbrigghe.....	Child Saving Institute

a. Notice of Publication

Recorder for the meeting, Amanda Felton, indicated that the notice of publication for this meeting was posted on the Nebraska Public Meetings Calendar and Nebraska Children’s Commission website in accordance with the Nebraska Open Meetings Act. The publication would be kept as a permanent attachment with the meeting minutes.

b. Announcement of the placement of Open Meetings Act information

A copy of the Open Meetings Act was available for public inspection and was located at the sign-in table at the entrance of the meeting room.

3. Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by Cindy Rudolph to approve the [agenda](#) as presented. The motion was seconded by Joan Schwan. No further discussion ensued. Roll Call vote as follows:

FOR (9):

Phillip Burrell	Jessica Kroeker	Lana Temple-Plotz
Robin Chadwell	Cindy Rudolph	Chrissy Tonkinson
Peg Harriott	Joan Schwan	Bill Williams

AGAINST (0):

ABSTAINED (0):

ABSENT (5):

Misty Frazier	Bobby Loud	Felicia Nelsen
Susan Henrie	Jackie Meyer	

MOTION CARRIED

4. Approval of the Previous Meeting Minutes

Lana Temple-Plotz moved to approve the [March 4, 2019 meeting minutes](#) as presented. Phillip Burrell seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Roll Call vote as follows:

FOR (10):

Phillip Burrell	Jessica Kroeker	Chrissy Tonkinson
Robin Chadwell	Cindy Rudolph	Bill Williams
Peg Harriott	Joan Schwan	
Susan Henrie	Lana Temple-Plotz	

AGAINST (0):

ABSTAINED (0):

ABSENT (4):

Misty Frazier	Jackie Meyer
Bobby Loud	Felicia Nelsen

MOTION CARRIED

5. Co-Chair Report

a. Legislative Update

The Co-Chairs asked Chris Jones, the Policy Analyst for the Commission, to provide a brief legislative update. Jones shared that the legislative language to continue the bill had been included in AM1241 on [LB600](#). The language kept the Commission in a similar structure, continuing under the Foster Care Review Office, retaining all of its statutory committees, and had only slight adjustments to the Commission membership composition. The bill was currently on select file and staff would be closely monitoring progress and updating members accordingly.

b. Treatment Family Care Update

The Co-Chairs noted that the Treatment Family Care (TFC) service definition was approved by the Commission. At the end of the discussion and approval of the service definition, Director of the Division of Children and Family Services (DCFS), Matt Wallen, indicated that he would take the information back to the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) administrators for review.

6. Public Comment

The Co-Chairs invited any members of the public forward for comment. No public comment was given.

7. Adoption Subsidy Update

a. *Update from the Nebraska Children's Commission*

Co-Chair Harriott explained that the issue of recommendations on adoption subsidy payments was discussed at the last Commission meeting for their feedback. After lengthy discussion, it was agreed that the FCRRRC should create recommendations of a payment structure for adoption payments. Harriott suggested that this work be taken on by the Base Rate & Foster Parent Survey Workgroup given the similarity to the work they are doing on base rate methodology.

b. *Nebraska Permanency Resource Responsibility Tool*

Lana Temple-Plotz provided an update on the [Nebraska Permanency Resource Responsibility Tool \(NPRRT\)](#). Below is a summary of the document changes since the last FCRRRC meeting:

- Title was changed from Nebraska Adoptive Parent Responsibility Tool
- Language change throughout to emphasize permanency, not adoption; emphasize federal “assistance” program, rather than “subsidy.”
- Increase Request section updated
- Right to Fair Hearing section updated
- LOR1: moved last bullet in LOR1 L3 to L2
- LOR2: Deleted and re-written to reflect a broader restructuring:
 - L1- Maintaining existing relationships and cultural identity
 - L2- Re-Establishing a previously disconnected relationship and actively assisting the youth to form cultural identity
 - L3- Supports child through challenging relationships and develops cultural identity not previously explored.
- LOR3: Eliminated “emotional” from title and emphasized “behavioral health” in L2
- LOR4: Moved last bullets in L2 & L3 up to L1 & L2
- LOR7 Changed title from “Family Stability” to “Specialized Skills”
 - Struck entire section and adopted recommended language from the Adoption Assistance Workgroup

After lengthy discussion on the form completion process, **it was moved by Joan Schwan to approve the Nebraska Permanency Resource Responsibility Tool with changes to update the number for the current adoption specialist and to remove the author notes in LOR7-L1 contained in the parentheses. The motion was seconded by Susan Henrie.** There was no further discussion. Roll call vote as follows:

FOR (13):

Phillip Burrell
Robin Chadwell
Misty Frazier
Peg Harriott
Susan Henrie

Jessica Kroeker
Jackie Meyer
Felicia Nelsen
Cindy Rudolph
Joan Schwan

Lana Temple-Plotz
Chrissy Tonkinson
Bill Williams

AGAINST (0):

ABSTAINED (0):

ABSENT (1):

Bobby Loud

MOTION CARRIED

8. Workgroup Discussion and Breakout Sessions

Prior to splitting into breakout sessions, the Co-Chairs clarified that the Base Rate & Foster Parent Survey workgroup would work to establish a base rate, while the Level of Responsibility workgroup would build upon that rate to form the NPRRT rates.

a. Agency Administration & Support Rate Workgroup

Co-chairs Cindy Rudolph and Darcy Kramer shared that a [survey](#) had been put together for provider agencies to assist in gather data on the costs to sustain their organization. Members reviewed the information and made minor suggestions. Updates included adding “Retention” to “Recruitment of Foster Parents” section, providing a description of “Indirect Rate” for agencies that may not be familiar with the term, and adding a full-time equivalent (FTE) count to the roles of recruiter, trainer, and licensing/admissions staff. The members also agreed that a small narrative should be added to explain the purpose of the survey and why it is important. In addition, to provide a name and phone number someone could call if there were questions. It was the goal of the group to distribute the survey and have data to analyze at the July 1st meeting.

b. Base Rate & Foster Parent Survey Workgroup

An update on the group’s progress was given by workgroup co-chair, Felicia Nelsen. She noted that the workgroup was requesting feedback on the [draft survey questions](#). One suggestion included replacing the “neither” option on question four with something to capture instances of NCR completion by case staff without the input of the foster parent. Other suggestions included adding clarifying language between agency staff and HHS, including information about the NCR scoring determining reimbursement rates, and working to highlight the areas of normalcy promotion within the NCR.

The [base rate methodology](#) was also submitted for input from the FCRRRC. Preliminary calculations indicate a slight raise in the range of \$2/day. However, a few factors needed to be examined for inclusion/exclusion in the calculation. Members of the larger FCRRRC were encouraged to provide any feedback to either Felicia Nelsen or Commission staff. The next meeting of the workgroup would be setup by Doodle poll some time in the week of June 10th.

c. Level of Responsibility Workgroup

Lana Temple-Plotz summarized the work of the Level of Responsibility (LOR) Workgroup. The group would be examining the service definition for Professional Foster Care to minimize any areas of overlap that could cause complications. A crosswalk would be created to compare professional foster care to TFC once additional data was gathered from probation. There was also discussion on the difficulties in navigating permanency for developmentally disabled youth and extended family homes. The next meeting was scheduled for June 11th from 1:00-3:00pm with a location to be determined.

d. Level of Responsibility & Treatment Family Care Rate Structure Workgroup

Robin Chadell, co-chair of this workgroup, provided an overview of the group’s next steps. The group planned to examine Community Based Alternative to Residential data as a starting point in creating a rate framework. Chadwell also noted that the group would examine administrative rates to look at the impact on payment structure between foster placements and youth served in their homes of origin. The next meeting was scheduled for June 17th at 1:00pm with a location to be determined.

9. Review of Assignments and Action Planning

All assignments and plans were outlined in previous agenda items.

10. New Business

There was no new business.

11. Upcoming Meeting Planning

The Co-Chairs reminded members of the future Committee meeting dates which were:

- July 1, 2019
- September 3, 2019
- November 4, 2019

12. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 2:53 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Amanda Felton

Membership of FCRRRC Workgroups

Agency Administrative and Support Rate Workgroup	
Phillip Burrell	Cindy Rudolph (Co-Chair)
Darcy Kramer (Co-Chair)	Kari Rumbaugh
Jessica Kroeker	Bill Williams
Jackie Meyer	

Base Rate & Foster Parent Survey Workgroup	
Doug Kreifels	Chrissy Tonkinson
Bobby Loud	Amadi Watts
Felicia Nelsen (Co-Chair)	Bill Williams
Juliet Summers	

Level of Responsibility & Treatment Family Care Rates Workgroup	
Robin Chadwell (Co-Chair)	Kathleen Stolz
Bobby Loud	Lisa Story (Co-Chair)
Felicia Nelsen	Juliet Summers
Cindy Rudolph	Lana Verbrigghe
Kari Rumbaugh	

Level of Responsibility Workgroup	
Olivia Biggs	Jennifer Potterf
Manuel Escamillia	Mike Puls
Susan Henrie	Kari Rumbaugh
Anne Hobbs	Nanette Simmons
Jackie Meyer	Lana Temple-Plotz (Chairperson)
Felicia Nelsen	